

David Bryan/R7/USEPA/US
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To bryan.david
cc
bcc Karl Brooks
Subject OPA Daily Digest - 7/9/12

OPA Daily Digest for 7/9/12

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 7/6/12 – Requests a status update on the West Lake Landfill superfund site. Due: 7/10/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Todd Akin (Mo.) – Letter – 6/22/12: Questions about the Strecker Farms proposed development. Due: 7/9/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Mike Johanns (Neb.) – Letter – 7/6/12: Constituent questions on the small business contract for the Omaha Lead Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) – Email – 7/9/12: Questions on the State Indoor Radon program. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KBIA Public Radio, Columbia, Mo. – Jacob Fenston – 6/12/12: Questions about EPA's enforcement history involving Doe Run Resources Corporation and the shutdown of the company's smelter in Herculaneum, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

IDNR Iowa Outdoors Magazine, Des Moines, Ia. – Mindy Kralicek – 6/22/12: Questions about the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training application process. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463 (open)

Inside EPA – John Heltman – 6/27/12: Requested documents about EPA objections to wastewater permits in Iowa and Kansas. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

St. Louis Post Dispatch – Jeremy Kohler – 6/26/12: Requesting information on the Carondelet Coke Site in Missouri. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

KNZA Radio, Hiawatha, Kan. – Brian Hagen – 7/9/12: Questions about grants from EPA Region 7's tribal program to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Omaha World-Herald – Nancy Gaarder – 7/9/12: Questions about EPA news release regarding public meetings on PM2.5. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Platte County Landmark – Valerie Verkamp – 7/9/12: Questions about de-icing program at KCI Airport were referred to MDNR. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - EPA, state sue Kellwood for Franklin County contamination - 7/7/12 - Environmental Protection Agency and Missouri Department of Natural Resources are suing Kellwood Co. to recover costs associated with soil and groundwater pollution from a former camping gear plant in Franklin County.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/epa-state-sue-kellwood-for-franklin-county-contamination/article_e_a3873500-c7b8-11e1-af4a-001a4bcf6878.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Judge rules for Clarkson Valley couple over solar panels – 7/9/12 - Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green ruled on June 29 that the city's failure to issue the Babbs a special-use permit for their solar project was "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable and an abuse of discretion."

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/judge-rules-for-clarkson-valley-couple-over-solar-panels/article_06bcc24-bb14-5da9-b798-0aceabd425dc.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Joplin to consider tornado recovery plans - 7/9/12 - A master planner hired to guide Joplin's recovery from the deadly May 2011 tornado plans to present his first slate of projects to city elected leaders Monday night.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/joplin-to-consider-tornado-recovery-plans/article_88db22c4-c9c6-11e1-bfe4-001a4bcf6878.html

Huffington Post (Opinion) - George Will On Climate Change: It's Just 'Summer ... Get Over It' (video) - 7/8/12 - George Will discussed the latest heat waves plaguing the nation on ABC's 'This Week'. His explanation for the extreme weather? "Summer."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/08/george-will-heat-wave-summer-climate-change-global-warming_n_1657504.html

AgriNews - EPA aerial surveillance draws ire of lawmakers - 7/9/12 - "If you've got issues, come to the door. Don't be sneaking in with an airplane just because you've got the power of the government behind you," said Steve Foglesong, a cattleman from Astoria in Fulton County. Foglesong was commenting on the use of aerial surveillance by EPA of livestock farms.

<http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/articles/livestock/livestock/default.asp?article=C1CC0B06BA8A24A27073BC9E47E38EFA8552464110FBECA0>

AgInfo.net - EPA Flyovers - 7/9/12 - The Environmental Protection Agency's practice of using planes to monitor pollution of America's farmlands has become political fodder.

<http://www.aginfo.net/index.cfm/event/report/id/Food-Forethought-22457>

Environmental Health News - Dead zone pollutant grows despite decades of work. But who's the culprit? - 7/9/12 - For two centuries, the town of Hermann has been known for the Missouri River. But now the river is making Hermann known for an unexpected reason: It is a hot spot for nitrate.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2012/mississippi-river-nitrate>

iWatch News - Black lung surges back in coal country - 7/9/12 - For the past 30 years, Ray Marcum's gotten a monthly check to compensate him for the disease that steals his breath — the old bane of miners known as black lung.

<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2012/07/08/9293/black-lung-surges-back-coal-country>

ABC News - 'New McCarthyism' Described by Climate Scientist Michael Mann - 7/8/12 - Interview with scientist Michael Mann, author of 'The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches From the Front Lines,' and the latest of many to describe efforts to intimidate climate scientists and create confusion about their findings.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/technology/2012/07/new-mccarthyism-described-by-climate-scientist-michael-mann/>

Facing South - Southern states lack adequate disclosure of fracking's chemical hazards - 7/9/12 -

Most of the states where fracking is taking place that do not require any public disclosure of the chemicals used in the controversial drilling process are in the South, and Southern states are also among those with weak disclosure laws.

<http://www.southernstudies.org/2012/07/southern-states-lack-adequate-disclosure-of-frackings-chemical-hazards.html-0>

Hometown Daily News - Empire Seeks Rate Hike - 7/9/12 - Empire District Electric is asking the Missouri Public Service Commission to approve a rate increase request to take effect next year. Empire says the request is for a net 22-point-1 million dollars, or about 5-point-3 percent. Spokeswoman Amy Bass says the request seeks an annual base rate increase of 30.7 million dollars, with a decrease of 8.6 million due to the fuel adjustment clause.

http://hometowndailynews.com/10986/empire_seeks_rate_hike.html

Lincoln Journal Star - EPA awards grants to Nebraska tribes - 7/9/12 - Two tribes in Nebraska received grants totaling nearly \$150,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/epa-awards-grants-to-nebraska-tribes/article_7d3891fa-fdd8-58ca-99a2-0fe3307b50fa.html

Ethanol Producer Magazine - Vilsack: Biofuels can continue to lower consumer gas prices - 7/9/12

- As Americans joined family and friends to celebrate America's independence, tens of millions took to our highways and Interstates – and I know that gas prices were on the minds of many.

<http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/8922/vilsack-biofuels-can-continue-to-lower-consumer-gas-prices>

BNA - Fracking Guidance Draws Criticism, as EPA Extends Comment Period - 7/9/12 - State regulators and some members of Congress push back against EPA draft permitting guidance for hydraulic fracturing that uses diesel fuels. Six members of Congress, among them Republicans and Democrats, file comments on the draft saying EPA “has expanded the definition of ‘diesel fuels’ under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) beyond the scope of Congressional intent.” State officials from North Dakota call the guidance an “unfunded mandate.” The comments come as EPA extends the deadline for submitting comments by 45 days—to Aug. 23

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27273291&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3k7w1f4&split=0

BNA - House Farm Bill Would strip EPA Authority To Require Water Act Permits for Pesticides -

7/9/12 - The Environmental Protection Agency would be barred from requiring Clean Water Act discharge permits for pesticide spraying on or near water bodies under a provision included in the House Agriculture Committee's draft 2012 farm bill.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27273288&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3k7u2a2&split=0

BNA - EPA Scientists Developing Position On Nontraditional Responses of Chemicals - 7/9/12 -

Environmental Protection Agency scientists are developing a draft paper describing the agency's perspective on chemicals that may have biological effects at various doses, including low doses, that are different from what would be expected in traditional toxicology.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27273281&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3k7k0a1&split=0

BNA - April Marked First Month Coal, Natural Gas Generated Equal Amounts of Electricity - 7/9/12

- Coal-fired and natural gas-fired power plants in April generated equal amounts of electricity for the first time since the government began collecting data on power generation, the Energy Information Administration reported July 6.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27273293&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3k7x8a6&split=0

Inside EPA - Lawmakers Revive Efforts To Prohibit EPA Regulation of 'Nuisance' Dust - 7/9/12 -
House and Senate lawmakers are reviving legislative efforts to address their fears that EPA is attempting to regulate "nuisance" dust, including possibly attaching a prohibition on regulating dust to the House's pending fiscal year 2013 spending bill and a recent failed attempt to offer the restriction as a rider to the Senate farm bill.

<http://insideepa.com/201207092403937/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/lawmakers-revive-efforts-to-prohibit-epa-regulation-of-nuisance-dust/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Seeks Vacatur To Revise Contested PM2.5 Air Permit Analysis Policy - 7/9/12 -
EPA is asking a federal appeals court to vacate and remand parts of its contested rule setting "significant impact levels" (SILs) used to determine whether a proposed facility's fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions require a full-blown analysis of the project's air quality impacts to win a permit, with the agency vowing to amend the rule.

<http://insideepa.com/201207092403936/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-seeks-vacatur-to-revise-contested-pm25-air-permit-analysis-policy/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

EPA Region 7 Tribal Program Awards Grants to Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas for Water Quality, Response Program and General Assistance – 7/9/12 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

EPA Region 7 Tribal Program Awards Grants to Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for Water Pollution Control, General Assistance – 7/9/12 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

EPA Region 7 Tribal Program Awards Grants to Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri for Water Monitoring, Radon Protection – 7/9/12 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

EPA Region 7 Awards \$39,942 Environmental Performance Partnership Grant to Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska – 7/9/12 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

EPA Region 7 Tribal Program Awards Grants to Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska for Response Program, Environmental Capacity Building – 7/9/12 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/10/12 – CFC Cabinet Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/10/12 – Meet and greet with Stacey Dey-Foy and Joe Carbonaro, EPA Office of Suspension and Debarment, Regional Office. Contact: Mark Hague, 7546

7/11/12 – Meet with the Shared Service Center, Regional Office. Contact: Luetta Flournoy, 7653

7/16-18/12 – Budget Forum, Washington D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/19/12 – Tribal Caucus/EPA Joint Session, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brander, 7381

7/25-26/12 – Lead Task Force Meeting and Site Tour, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

and Julia Cacho, 7071

7/27/12- Lincoln University Water Boot Camp Certificate Ceremony, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557 and Monica Espinosa, 7541

7/27/12 – Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contacts: Julia Cacho, 7071 and David Cozad, 7587

11/19/12 – 2012 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

7/13/12 - Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City Monthly Meeting, Kansas City, MO Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

7/16-17/12 - Attend Budget Forum, Washington, DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

7/18/12 - Attend National Tribal Operations Council, Washington, DC. Contacts: Dana Peters, 7444 and Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

7/19/12 - Attend Spring EMC Meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

8/13-17/12 - ORD Lead Region Transition Planning Meeting with Region 10, Corvallis, Ore. Contacts: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566 and Dana Peters, 7444

9/11- 12/12 - Attend Hypoxia Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

9/13/12 - Attend National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

7/9-11/12 - Environmental Justice Meeting and OGC/ORC Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

7/10-12/12 - OGC/ORC Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Becky Dolph, 7281

ECO/EJ

7/12/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

8/9/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

8/18/12 - Back to School Event at Brush Creek Community Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Michael Minor, 7539

9/13/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kan.
Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

10/11/12 - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kan.
Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

7/9-11/12 – EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) Visit, Ft. Riley, Kan. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

7/22-30/12 - ORD/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sampling event, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

7/31 - 8/2/12 – Meeting with the incoming Lead Region Coordinators and the National Program Directors, Washington, DC. Contact: Tony Petruska, 7637

PLMG

7/11/12 - Suspension and Debarment Division visit with Grants and Contracts staff, Regional Office.
Contact: Karen Sherrill, 7461

8/7-8/12 - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks workshop, Hays, Kan. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

RA/OPA

7/17/12 - Public Meeting, Southwest Jefferson County Mining Superfund Site Proposed Plan, Jefferson County, Mo. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

7/19/12 - Public Availability Session for the Pools Prairie Superfund Site, Neosho, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

7/26/12 – Public Availability Session for the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Site in Norfolk, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

7/18/12 - Project team meeting and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers open house at the Former Nebraska Ordnance Site, Mead, Neb. Contact: Ken Rapplean, 7769

WWPD

7/10/12 - Kansas Department of Health and Environment Use Attainability Analyses Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Amy Shields, 7396 and John DeLashmit, 7821

7/10-11/12 - Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Review, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159 and Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

7/11/12 - On-Site Grant Review, Lincoln, Neb. Contacts: Eliodora Chamberlain, 7945 and Karla Asberry, 7595

7/15-20/12 - American Federation of Government Employees annual conference, Silver Springs, Md.
Contact: Morris Holmes, 7421

7/18-20/12 - Kansas Corporation Commission Program Review, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett,

7159 and Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

7/18-20/12 - 27th Annual Heartland Operators Conference presentation, Kearney, Neb. Contact: Robert Bryant, 7354